

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, JANUARY 13, 1965

The Board of Public Works met in the office of the Governor, State Office Building, Baltimore, Maryland.

There were present:

J. Millard Tawes, Governor  
Louis L. Goldstein, Comptroller  
John A. Luetkemeyer, Treasurer.

Also attending the meeting were:

Henry T. Douglas, Chief of Planning, Maryland Port Authority  
William H. Bayliff, Executive Secretary, Board of Natural Resources  
Richard H. Collins, Member, Board of Natural Resources  
Dr. Van Flyger, Natural Resources Institute, University of Maryland  
Albert P. Backhaus, Director, Department of Public Improvements  
Russell H. McCain, Executive Assistant to the Governor  
Percy M. Hepbron, Senator, Kent County  
Irving L. Crouch, Fisherman, Kent County  
Herbert Sachs, Maryland State Planning Commission  
Kenneth N. Weaver, Maryland Geological Survey  
Turbit H. Slaughter, Maryland Geological Survey  
Paul W. McKee, Department of Water Resources  
John L. Reynolds, Chief, Operations Division, Corps of Engineers,  
Baltimore District  
Richard Cullen, Attorney, Wicomico County Council  
Wade Insley, Jr., President, Wicomico County Council  
Thomas A. Craig, Salisbury Chamber of Commerce  
Richard S. Wootten, Wicomico County Council  
Delbert Davis, Jr., Director, Wicomico County Public Works  
Ralph L. Dodge, Upper Chesapeake Watershed Association  
Avery W. Hall, Maryland Port Authority, Salisbury, Maryland  
John W. Kronau, Maryland Port Authority, Baltimore, Maryland  
J. L. Stanton, Maryland Port Authority, Baltimore, Maryland  
George T. Harrison, Tilghman, Maryland  
George Heller Harrison, St. Michaels, Maryland  
William O. Mills, Congressman Rogers Morton, Washington, D. C.  
O. Loren Sterling, Board of Natural Resources, Crisfield, Maryland  
Ralph A. Schmidt, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Boston  
Frederick Sieling, Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs  
Joseph H. Manning, Director, Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs  
Roy L. Walsh, Board of Natural Resources, Easton, Maryland  
Donald W. Pritchard, Board of Natural Resources  
Walter C. Boyer, Maryland Port Authority  
Col. E. P. Yates, District Engineer, U. S. Army Engineers, District  
of Philadelphia  
H. P. Mickel, U. S. Engineer District, District of Philadelphia  
Ellery B. Woodworth, Assistant to Senator Brewster

DREDGING:

The Governor stated that this special meeting of the Board of Public Works had been called at the request of the Maryland Port Authority, to discuss two (2) matters on Dredged Spoil Disposal:

- 1 - Wicomico River Project - Sharkfin Shoal Area
- 2 - Channel to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal

1- Wicomico River Project-Sharkfin Shoal Area:

The Governor introduced Mr. Henry T. Douglas, Chief of Planning, Maryland Port Authority, to review the problem in Sharkfin Shoal. The Maryland Port Authority is the State co-ordinating agency for channel problems.

Mr. Douglas reviewed the Wicomico River Dredging Project and pointed out that Wicomico County has secured spoil deposit areas on-shore with one (1) exception, that is, the channel through Sharkfin Shoal. It is estimated that about 40,000 cubic yards would be dredged from this area. The most economical method of this part of the Project raises three (3) problems:

- a. Sharkfin Shoal passes through a natural oyster bed.
- b. Sharkfin Shoal passes close to two (2) oyster shell plantings.
- c. It is located quite far from land - three (3) miles to nearest land.

(cont.)

(Dredging)

The Corps of Engineers, as a matter of policy, always uses the method of the least cost to the Federal Government. In this case the Board of Natural Resources is opposed to overboard disposal and although Bloodsworth Island was recommended for onland disposal, it proved too costly and was objected to by the Federal Government. It was pointed out that the cost of any modification of the plan developed by the Corps of Engineers would have to be borne by the State.

During the discussion of this problem Mr. Goldstein asked several questions and suggested several proposals as to a solution. He also asked if there would be more problems of this nature. He was advised that there would be.

After full discussion of the matter, by the representatives from the Corps of Engineers, Wicomico County, and the Board of Natural Resources, it was generally agreed that of all of the possibilities only the Western Site should be used. This is some forty (40) acres, of which the spoil may cover only twenty (20) acres. The Western area is in an area of shifting sand and there are no oysters to be damaged.

This concluded the discussion on Sharkfin Shoal.

2- Channel to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal:

The Board then took up the proposal of the spoil disposal arising from the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Dredging Project.

Mr. Douglas presented the problems faced by the Maryland Port Authority, whose primary function is to foster and develop the waterborne commerce of the State and by the Board of Natural Resources and related Agencies, whose primary concern is to protect and develop the natural resources of the State. Mr. Douglas summed up his presentation by urging the Board to withdraw its objection to overboard disposal in this instance.

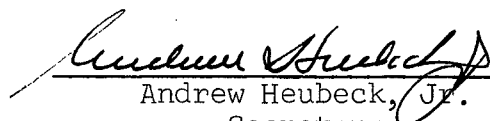
Following Mr. Douglas were various representatives of the Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, the Board of Natural Resources, headed by Mr. Roy L. Walsh, Chairman, and various representatives of the related agencies. Mr. Goldstein asked pertinent questions and offered possible solutions, after which he recommended that a meeting be arranged with Senator Daniel B. Brewster, the Board of Public Works, and the Aberdeen authorities to discuss the problem, with Senator Brewster to initiate such a meeting with President Johnson and Secretary of Defense McNamara.

At the conclusion of the discussions, during which various papers and documents were presented to the Board for its consideration, the Board concluded the hearing with the understanding that it would study all of the information submitted and render its decision as soon as possible.

Note: A transcript of the summary of this meeting has been made a part of the files of the Board of Public Works, covering these two (2) Projects.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Andrew Heubeck, Jr.  
Secretary



